system in different Ministries/ Departments. It has, therefore, been felt that adequate powers should be delegated to the Ministries for incurring expenditure within the budgeted outlays and only in case of demand for additional funds, the matter may be referred to the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Finance are in the process of working out the modalities so that Minstries/ Departments are enabled to implement their plan and non-plan schemes without any delay.

Criteria for approval of plan size of States

1831. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total Plan size from the 1st to the 9th Five Year Plans; Plan-wise and State-wise;

(b) the Plan-wise percentage of increase in succesive Plans, State-wise;

(c) the norms/criteria adopted while approving the Plan size of States;

(d) whether allegations of discrimination against States were aired by the States; and

(e) if so, the highlights of those allegations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA DEHARESHWAR SAVANOOR): (a) and (b) The originally approved outlays for the State Plans from 1st Five Year Plan to Ninth Five Year Plan and Plan-wise percentage of increase in the successive plans is given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix 181, Annexure No. 48] (c) to (e) The Plan size of the States are decided in meetings at the level of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commssion with the Chief Ministers of the concerned State through mutual discussion keeping in view the projections of Central Asistance and State's Own Resources. The allocation of Normal Central Assistance is made on the basis of the formula approved by the National Development Council (NDC). Chief Ministers have generally been pleading for higher levels of Central Assistance.

Benefits from Insat-2D

1832. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether, after functioning of the INSAT-2D, Indian ships are likely to improve their navigational and other areas; and

(b) If so, the details of the fields likely to improve?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) INSAT-2D satellite launched in June 1997 does not carry any Navigation package. However, it carries a mobile communications transponder for use by ships and other vehicles. INSAT-2D carries 18 C & Ext-C band, 3 Ku-band, 1 S-band and 1 Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) transponder for communication.

The INSAT-2D satellite, therefore, cannot be of direct assistance to Indian ships for navigational purposes. The MSS transponder can be used for voice and data communications from and to ships equipped with appropriate moble terminals and this could be of assistance to navigation in a indirect manner.

Nuclear Thermal Rockets

1833. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian scientists have worked on Nuclear Thermal rockets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by wnen India would be able to launch its own space satellites, like INSAT-2D?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) with a capability to launch Indian National Satellite System-2 (INSAT-2) class of satellites in the required orbit is under development. The first development flight of GSLV is planned during 1998.

Launching of climate-satellite

1834. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI:
DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation has submitted a proposal for launching climate-satellie; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon to enable Government to save lives during natural calamities by advance prediction of cyclones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) No, Sir. However, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has constituted an Expert Group for defining a satellite for climate studies — CLIMATSAT Programme Definition Group — for working out the technical feasibility of designing and launching such a satellite. The Committee is presently working out the payload mix, orbit, satellite configuration, etc., for the proposed satellite in close collaboration with various Indian user Organisations such as, India Meterological Department, National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting and Indian Institute of Science.

(b) Presently, the analysis of sequential cloud cover images provided by the Indian geostationary INSAT satellites, has been facilitating advanced warning on the onset of cyclones. The Disaster Warning System using additionally the communication capability of INSAT has been used to take advanced actions in relation to evacuation of people from coastal regions.

Remote sensing techniques for soil reclamation

1835. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Remote Sensing Agency has introduced advanced remote sensing techniques for treating salt affected soild for reclamation measures which can increase food production;

(b) if so, the districts of Andhra Pradesh where it has been tested;

(c) whether Government propose to popularise the technique for coastal regions, for more agricultural yield and to assist farmers in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (d) National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) has not by itself introduced any advanced remote sensing technique for treating salt affected soils for reclamation measures, which could increase food production.

NRSA has, however, developed the methodology for identification and delineation of salt affected soils and for categorising them into different groups based on the nature and magnitude of the